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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Debasis Majumdar, et al

CONDUCTIVE AND ROUGHENING LAYER

Serial No. US 10/170,117

Filed 12 June 2002

Group Art Unit: 1773

Examiner: Sheeba Ahmed

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Christine Tolhurst
Christine Tolhurst

July 9, 2003
Date

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

DECLARATION UNDER RULE 132

1. I, Debasis Majumdar, state that I am a citizen of the United States. I obtained a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1983 from Northwestern University, in Evanston, IL. with a concentration on material science and engineering. I worked at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, from 1983 to 1984, as a member of the faculty teaching material science and engineering. I have been an employee of Eastman Kodak Company (hereinafter referred to as Kodak) since 1984. I was assigned to work on material science, specifically imaging supports.
2. I am one of the co-inventors of U.S. Serial No. 10/170,117.
3. I have read the Office Action issued on April 11, 2003 and am familiar with the references cited therein.
4. By reason of my education and work experience, I consider myself an expert in imaging elements and intercalated clays.
5. To one of ordinary skill in the art, delamination tendency refers to the tendency of splitting or separating a laminate into layers and/or the splitting apart of one or more of the layers of a laminate due to failure of the adhesive, or cohesive failure of the laminate.

6. To one of ordinary skill, phase morphology in a polymer blend can mean the microstructure of the blend resulting from (in)compatibility of the constituent phases.

7. Typically phases, which are incompatible with each other (i.e., do not mix) result in large domain sizes, whereas phases, which are compatible with each other result in small domain sizes.

8. At the surface of the blend this trend should translate in to a high surface roughness (resulting from large domains) with incompatible phases and low surface roughness (resulting from small domains) with compatible phases.

9. Improved phase morphology should be interpreted as improved compatibility of the phases. Thus, improved phase morphology should equate to a low surface roughness.

10. Bourdelais et al. in US Patent No. 6,022,677 clearly state that a desirable surface roughness in their bottommost skin layer of a biaxially oriented sheet is obtained through the use of incompatible block copolymers (vide lines 51-60 col. 9). They further state that these block copolymers do not mix and create desired roughness during biaxial orientation.

11. Therefore, one of ordinary skill seeking the desired surface roughness is instructed away from using a compatiblizer, which will render the polymers compatible, and thus jeopardize the desired objective.

12. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that the statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent resulting therefrom.

Date: July 8, 2003

Debasis Majumdar